



HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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Mobile Data Terminal Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Consortium met on Mon., Sept. 29 at 10:00 am in Bozeman. Project Director Sheriff Jim Cashell reported on the current status of the Interoperability Montana (IM) Project and the previous meeting of the consortium's Request for Information (RFI) committee.

The RFI committee reported on the evaluation of four vendors for the pilot MDT project in Great Falls that will utilize a 700 MHz wide-band mobile data system that will be capable of utilizing frequencies in the 25 to 50 KHz range. Sheriff Cashell asked the RFI committee to obtain the answers to several questions that other consortium members had on the proposals and to report back to the group at the next meeting.

Dave Clouse, Northrop Grumman, and Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol, briefed the group on developments in MDT throughout Montana and how the new system will be able to interact with the system already installed. Sheriff Cashell provided some history of the MDT consortium.

The next MDT meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am, Thurs. Oct. 30 at the Best Western City Center Conference Room in Bozeman.

Tri-County Interoperable Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Tri-County Interoperable Consortium (SWIP/Tri-County) meeting was conducted on Wed., Oct. 1 at the Department of Corrections conference room in Helena. Chairman Sheriff Scott Howard began the meeting with a discussion of the August minutes. Consortium members discussed the Cominco, Boulder Hill, Bull Mountain, and Limestone Hills communications sites and how the sites affect the entire Interoperability Montana (IM) Project.

Based on anticipated grant funding, a large portion of the requirements for Phase II of the Tri-County build out will be satisfied. The group discussed frequency requirements that are still outstanding and microwave connectivity to other consortia and partnership agencies. The group also discussed methods for connecting requested grant monies with existing grants and county and state funding to achieve site completion. Consortium

members submitted project reports and new action items were assigned. Tom Smith, Northrop Grumman provided the latest updates regarding site completion. Programming and installation efforts are on track. Assistance to Fire Fighter grant has been received at FEMA and updates have been requested.

The next meeting will be on Wed., Oct. 29 at 10:00 am at the Department of Corrections Annex Building Conference Room, located behind 515 N. Sanders St. in Helena.

Northern Tier Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan pmohan@mt.gov

The Northern Tier Interoperability Consortium (NTIC) board of directors and technical representatives met on Thurs., Oct. 2 in Havre. Sheriff Wayne Dusterhoff chaired the meeting. Minutes from the previous meeting were discussed. Northrop Grumman Project Management representative, provided an update to the group on the progress of communications sites.

A large percentage of the sites in the Northern Tier are capable of going live and the rest are cold installed awaiting final microwave work. Currently, microwave construction is still being finalized and Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol, discussed microwave requirements site by site. The group unanimously approved sending correspondence to the microwave vendor setting a final deadline for installation and testing of the system because the radio vendor needs to adhere to its anticipated time line for trunking installation.

Frequency approvals, fleet mapping and best business practices are progressing in the consortium. The appointment of a Training Sub-Committee by the IM Project was discussed at length.

The group also discussed the proposal by Hill County Sheriff Don Brostrom for obtaining the services of a system manager for maintenance of areas covered by the Northern Tier Consortium. A consensus was reached that further discussion was required between the NTIC Project Director and the Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD).

Chair Dusterhoff adjourned the meeting reminded members that the next NTIC meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am, Thurs., Nov. 6 at the Great Northern Motel Conference Room in Havre.



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Sustainability Plan Work Session

By E. Wing Spooner espooner@mt.gov

Several Interoperability Montana (IM) members met in Helena on Wed., Oct. 1 to review and contribute to a draft Sustainability Plan. Bill Fleiner, IM Governance Chair, collected sustainability proposals and suggestions over the past two years and compiled them into a draft document with the goal of formulating a plan to take before the IM Project Directors, partners, and the legislature.

Kerry O'Connell, SCMIC Project Director, George Gupton, WICC Project Director, and Sheriff John Walsh, 2nd IMPD Vice Chair, made significant contributions to help clarify intent and improve content language. Kevin Bruski, MT Dept. of Transportation, Bob Murdo, IM Legal Counsel, and Scott Bradford and Wing Spooner, PSSB, also provided important guidance to ensure that the plan clearly communicates goals and objectives for sustainability of the IM Project.

Kudos go to Bill Fleiner for initially compiling information from several IM Finance and Governance meetings and Montana's Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) to articulate the intent of IM members. The working group was appreciative of his efforts. A draft plan will be distributed at the upcoming IM Project directors meeting.

Upcoming Meetings

Oct. 6

IM Finance Committee

Helena • 9:00 am - Noon

Anderson & ZurMuehlen • 828 Great Northern Blvd.

Oct. 6

IM Governance Committee

Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm

DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Oct. 7

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting

Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

State Capitol, Room 152

Oct. 8

Central Consortium (CMICC)

Great Falls • 10:00 am

Wheat Building, 750 6th Street SW

Oct. 8

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)

White Sulfur Springs • 10:00 am

Sheriff's Office, 101 W. Crawford St.

Oct. 9 (Please Note Date Change)

Eastern Tier Consortium

Glendive • 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Law Enforcement Center, 440 Colorado Blvd.

Oct. 16

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium

Butte • 10:00 am

Chamber of Commerce; 1000 George St.

Oct. 21

IM Technical Committee—Five-Year Planning Meeting

Billings • 8:30 am

Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Muldowney Lane

Oct. 21

Frequency Sub-Committee meeting

Billings • 1:00 pm

Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Muldowney Lane

Oct. 22-23

Montana APCO Conference

Billings • Billings Hotel & Convention Center

1223 Muldowney Lane

More information at: <http://www.mtapco.org>

Oct. 27

IM Technical Committee (IMTC)

Helena • 9:00 am-3:00 pm

State Capitol, Room 172

Oct. 29

Tri-County Consortium

Helena • 10:00 am-12:00 noon

DOC Annex Conf. Rm.; Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

Oct. 30

Mobile Data Consortium (MDT)

Bozeman • 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Best Western City Center Motel, 507 W Main St.